

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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USMISSION USNATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 053213

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, NATO, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ FEB 28

REF: STATE 41937

1. COUNSELOR NIMETZ SAW AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS FEB 28 TO
FULFILL EARLIER COMMITMENT (REFTEL) TO BRIEF HIM ON RE-
TURN FROM VISIT TO ANKARA. NIMETZ REMINDED ALEXANDRAKIS
THAT THE TRIP WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE DISCUSSIONS THAT
SECRETARY VANCE HAD HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN
JANUARY. THE US TEAM HAD GONE WITHOUT A SPECIFIC AGENDA
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WITH THE INTENTION OF HEARING OUT THE TURKS ON ANY ISSUES
THEY WISHED TO RAISE. MOST OF THE DISCUSSION CENTERED ON
ECONOMIC ISSUES WITH THE TURKS INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD
SOON RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IMF AND THAT THEY ARE
WORKING ON AN ECONOMIC STABILIZATION PROGRAM.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC ISSUES, OTHER

BILATERAL MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS OF THIS PHASE OF THE TALKS, NIMETZ EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WERE NO AGREEMENTS OR UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED DURING THE VISIT. ALEXANDRAKIS WAS TOLD THAT THIS POINT NEEDED TO BE EMPHASIZED BECAUSE OF PRESS SPECULATION IN CYPRUS THAT AN AGREEMENT TO PUSH FOR THE TURKISH DCA HAD BEEN

REACHED DURING THE STOP IN ANKARA.

3. NIMETZ SAID HE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM HIS DISCUSSION WITH ECEVIT THAT THE TURKS SEEM VERY SERIOUS AND POSITIVE ABOUT THE CARAMANLIS/ECEVIT SUMMIT. ECEVIT HAS STRESSED THAT THE FUTURE OF THE AREA DEPENDS ON CLOSE GREEK AND TURKISH COOPERATION AND THAT HE VIEWED THE MEETING WITH THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER AS THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS TO NORMALIZE GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. THE TURKS APPEAR TO HAVE NO SPECIFIC AGENDA FOR THE SUMMIT MEETING, NOR DO THEY EXPECT CONCRETE RESULTS. HOWEVER, NIMETZ TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS THAT IT IS HIS BELIEF THAT THE TURKS FEEL THAT THE GREEKS ARE APPROACHING THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN POSITIVE TERMS AND THAT THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE A POSSIBILITY THAT SOME BROAD UNDERSTANDINGS COULD BE REACHED.

4. TURNING TO TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS, NIMETZ TOLD ALEXANDRAKIS THAT THE TURKS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF FINALIZING THESE PROPOSALS AND THEY DID NOT GIVE THE US TEAM ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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DETAILS. HOWEVER, THE TURKISH SIDE DID MENTION THE NECESSITY OF RESETTLING A NUMBER OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS. THE TEAM SENSED THAT THE TURKS WERE WORKING HARD ON THE PROPOSALS AND EXPECTED TO DESCRIBE THEM TO UN SEC GEN WALDHEIM SHORTLY AFTER THE SUMMIT.

5. IN CONTRAST TO THE TURKISH PERCEPTION THAT THE GREEKS WERE APPROACHING THE AREA'S PROBLEMS IN A POSITIVE FASHION, THE TURKS WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO THE TURKISH PROPOSALS. NIMETZ TOLD THE TURKS THAT THEY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON PUTTING CONCRETE PROPOSALS FORWARD AND NOT BE DETERRED BY CONJECTURE ON HOW THESE PROPOSALS WOULD BE GREETED. THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO SUBMIT THEM AND THEN WE COULD TURN OUR ATTENTION TO ENSURING THAT A FULL NEGOTIATION OF THE PROPOSALS ENSUED.

6. ALEXANDRAKIS EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE ECEVIT/CARAMANLIS SUMMIT WOULD LEAD TO POSITIVE RESULTS AND THAT THE TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS WOULD BE REALISTIC. CONCERNING THE LATTER, HE SAID THE TURKS HAVE NEVER SERIOUSLY PUT THE BALL IN THE GREEK-CYPRIOT COURT BY SUBMITTING WORTHWHILE

PROPOSALS; THAT HAD MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR ATHENS TO PLAY A ROLE. IN THE ABSENCE OF PROPOSALS WHICH ATHENS ITSELF CONSIDERED VIABLE, ATHENS COULD NOT PLAY THE DESIRED ROLE OF COAXING THE CYPRIOTS TO NEGOTIATE SUCH PROPOSALS IN GOOD FAITH. NIMETZ REITERATED OUR BELIEF THAT ECEVIT REALIZES HOW MUCH TURKEY WOULD BENEFIT FROM AN EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. WE HOPED THE GREEK

CYPRIOTS WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND SHOULD THE TURKISH PROPOSALS IN FACT REPRESENT A BASIS FOR RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS.

7. AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS ASKED WHETHER THE SUBJECT OF GREECE'S PLACE IN NATO HAD ARISEN DURING THE ANKARA STOP.
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NIMETZ INDICATED THE SUBJECT DID ARISE BUT HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. HOWEVER, THE US SIDE HAD STRESSED TO THE TURKS THE IMPORTANCE THE USG ATTACHED TO WORKING OUT SOMETHING WITH THE GREEKS IN NATO AND THE HOPE THAT TURKEY WOULD BE COOPERATIVE IN THIS EFFORT. NIMETZ SAID THAT THE TURKS HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT SOME OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE INCLUDED IN SOME OF THE GREEK DOCUMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO NATO. IT WAS NIMETZ' VIEW THAT, IF THIS LANGUAGE COULD BE REMOVED, IT WOULD FACILITATE RESOLVING GREEK-TURKISH DIFFERENCES IN NATO. ALEXANDRAKIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GREEK NATO DOCUMENTS HAD SPECIFICALLY POINTED TO TURKEY AS A POTENTIAL THREAT TO GREECE BUT ADDED THAT THIS WAS IN FACT A REALITY. WHILE ACCEPTING THE POINT THAT GREECE VIEWS TURKEY IN THAT LIGHT, NIMETZ ARGUED THAT THE SAME POINT COULD BE MADE IN A GENERAL SENSE IN DESCRIBING GREECE'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS WITHOUT A POINTED REFERENCE TO TURKEY.

8. NIMETZ ALSO INFORMED ALEXANDRAKIS THAT THE TEAM HAD STOPPED IN BRUSSELS TO TALK WITH GENERAL HAIG AND USNATO IN ORDER TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH RESOLVING GREECE'S STATUS IN THE ALLIANCE. GENERAL HAIG WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS PROCESS COULD BE DONE QUICKLY.

9. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF'S VISIT TO THE US. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, ALEXANDRAKIS STATED THAT AVEROFF HAD DECIDED TO CANCEL HIS LUNCHEON WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN BECAUSE OF IMPLICATIONS IT MIGHT HAVE ON THE FORTHCOMING ECEVIT-CARAMANLIS SUMMIT. HE EXPLAINED THAT ECEVIT WAS TOUCHY AND COULD POSSIBLY MISINTERPRET AN AVEROFF/BROWN MEETING AND THUS SPOIL THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SUMMIT. HE INDICATED THAT AVEROFF HAD WELCOMED THE INVITATION
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INITIALLY, BUT THAT ONCE THE TIMING OF THE SUMMIT BECAME
KNOWN HE FELT COMPELLED TO CANCEL. VANCE

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